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JUSTICE RITA B. GARMAN TO ADMINISTER OATH TO NEW ATTORNEYS

Supreme Court of Illinois Justice Rita B. Garman will preside and administer the attorney's oath when 59 new attorneys are admitted to practice in ceremonies in Springfield on Thursday, November 7.

The group is among 1,612 men and women who were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys at ceremonies in the state's five Supreme Court judicial districts.

The Springfield program in the Fourth Judicial District will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Michael J. Howlett Building, located at Second and Jackson Streets in Springfield.

Justice Garman, the second woman to sit on the High Court, will preside over the ceremony and welcome the members of the class, their families and friends.

Other guests of the Illinois Supreme Court will be: Joseph H. Hartzler from the Central District United States Attorney's Office; Dennis Myers, Vice President, General Counsel of Verizon Wireless, Midwest Area; Attorney James J. Stoller, sole practitioner from El Paso; Attorney Jon Noll from the Noll Law Office in Springfield; April Troemper from the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association; and Ole B. Pace III, representing the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA).

Mr. Myers will make the motion to admit the class. His daughter, Leah, is a member of the class.

Mr. Stoller and Mr. Noll will second the motion to admit the class. Mr. Stoller's son, Justin, is a member of the class. Mr. Noll's nephew, Gray, is a member of the class as well.

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A reception will follow.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois State Bar Examination and an ethics examination; and were certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to over 77,000.

Media coverage is invited.

Justice Garman joined the Supreme Court in February 2001 with a wealth of judicial experience, having been appointed to replace Justice Benjamin K. Miller, who retired. She was the first woman associate judge in the 5th Judicial Circuit (1974-86); the first woman Circuit Judge in the 5th Circuit (1986-95); and the first woman to serve on the Appellate Court in the Fourth District (1995-01).

She received her B.S. degree in economics with highest honors from the University of Illinois in 1965, Bronze Tablet; and her J.D. degree with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1968.

Before becoming an associate judge, Justice Garman was assistant state's attorney in Vermilion County (1969-73) and was engaged in private practice with Sebat, Swanson, Banks, Lessen & Garman (1973).

The counties in the Fourth District of the Supreme Court are: Adams, Pike, Calhoun, Schuyler, Brown, Scott, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Cass, Mason, Menard, Sangamon, Logan, DeWitt, Macon, Piatt, Moultrie, McLean, Woodford, Livingston, Ford, Champaign, Douglas, Coles, Cumberland, Clark, Edgar and Vermilion.

Ceremonies in the other districts will be held in Chicago, Collinsville, Joliet and Elgin.